

SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

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Classification **SECRET** SECURITY INFORMATION

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Subject: The ex-Mufti's Movements and Future Plans Report No: RSD-754
Date of Information: Current
Place Acquired: Damascus, Syria Date Acquired: 16 February 1952
Evaluation: C-3 Date of Report: 16 February 1952
Source: ☐ ☐

- 1) The ex-Mufti arrived in Beirut early in February, 1952, and was informed unofficially that the government was not anxious for him to remain in the Lebanon.
- 2) On 13 February, 1952, the ex-Mufti, accompanied by Shaykh Sabri (ABDIN, Selim HUSAYNI, Mujdi WADUNI, and Muhammad BERKAWI, crossed into Syria clandestinely. The ex-Mufti stayed in Damascus in the home of his nephew, Husayn al-HUSAYNI. On the following day, this group returned to Lebanon. While in Damascus, the ex-Mufti was informed by his supporters that the SHISHAKLI regime would probably not be pleased at having him remain in Syria for any long period of time.
- 3) Source reports that the ex-Mufti is planning to go to Pakistan to prepare the ground for the coming Islamic conference, and that he will probably not be in Beirut for the large meeting which the AHC is planning to hold there at the end of February.
- 4) On his return from Pakistan, the ex-Mufti plans to go to Saudi Arabia to confer with King Ibn SA'UD on questions pertaining to the refugees. Then, if the Egyptian Government raises no difficulties, he will return to Egypt.

Field Comment:

Source saw the ex-Mufti in Damascus on 13 February, 1952. The Syrian Press announced that the ex-Mufti was planning to visit Damascus after contacting his followers in the Lebanon, but to date the Press, and possibly the Security Services, are not aware that the ex-Mufti visited Damascus on 13 February, 1952.

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